

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09685 171826Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O 171800Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5328

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 9685

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR LE SY SA EG US

SUBJ: BEIRUT EVACUATION

REF: STATE 177762

1. PURSUANT PARA 5 REFTTEL, I ADVISED MINSTATE MUHAMMED RIAD THIS EVENING OF OUR DECISION TO USE THE OVERLAND ROAD CONVOY AS OUR PRINCIPAL EVACUATION ROUTE, BUT ALSO NOTED THAT WE WANT TO KEEP OPEN THE AIRPORT OPTION AS A SECONDARY MEANS. I TOLD HIM AMBASSADOR SEELYE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED ASK EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT TO CONVEY THIS TO PLO AND CONFIRM THEIR COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE.

2. RIAD TOOK NOTE OF OUR DECISION AND SAID HE WOULD AT ONCE ADVISE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT OF MY DEMARCHE AND INSTRUCT HIM BE OF ALL POSSIBLE HELP. RIAD WILL ALSO INFORM FAHMY AND THE PRESIDENT IN TAIF OF OUR DECISION.

3. I NOTE AMBASSADOR SEELYE IS ALSO SCHEDULED LEAVE. I RECOGNIZE SECURITY ASPECTS, BUT AT SOME POINT WE OUGHT TO ADVISE EGYPTIANS OF THIS FACT. UNLESS WE DO SO, THEY WILL FEEL WE HAVE HELD OUT ON THEM AND THEIR NOSES WILL BE OUT OF JOINT.

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EILTS

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